

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A purification catalyst for exhaust gas, comprising an aluminum oxide supporting a Pd oxide, wherein the aluminum oxide is  $\text{LnAlO}_3$  in which Ln is a rare-earth element, and wherein crystal system of the aluminum oxide is trigonal or rhombohedral.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Withdrawn) The purification catalyst for exhaust gas of claim 1, wherein the Pd oxide contains at least  $\text{Ln}_2\text{PdO}_4$  in which Ln is a rare-earth element.
4. (Withdrawn) The purification catalyst for exhaust gas according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is produced by adding at least one kind of compound selected from the group of compounds of carboxylic acid having a hydroxyl group or a mercapto group and having a carbon number of 2 to 20, dicarboxylic acid having a carbon number of 2 or 3, and monocarboxylic acid having a carbon number of 1 to 20 to aqueous nitrate solution including a component.
5. (Withdrawn) The purification catalyst for exhaust gas according to claim 4, wherein the catalyst is produced by evaporating the aqueous nitrate solution completely, to produce a carboxylic acid complex polymer and by heating the carboxylic acid complex polymer.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~production~~ method for production of a purification catalyst for exhaust gas, wherein the purification catalyst comprises a Pd oxide containing at least  $\text{Ln}_2\text{PdO}_4$  supported by  $\text{LnAlO}_3$ , wherein Ln is a rare-earth element, the method comprising:

preparing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of carboxylic acid having a hydroxyl group or a mercapto group and having a carbon number of 2 to 20, dicarboxylic acid having a carbon number of 2 or 3, and monocarboxylic acid having a carbon number of 1 to 20; and

adding ~~[[the]]~~ said at least one compound to an aqueous nitrate solution~~[[,]]~~ including Ln and Pd and an aqueous nitrate solution including Ln and Al.

~~wherein the purification catalyst has a general formula  $\text{LnAlO}_3$  or  $\text{Ln}_a\text{Pd}_b\text{O}_c$ , where Ln is a rare earth element, a is an integer equal to 2 or 4, b is an integer equal to 1 or 2, and c is an integer equal to 4, 5, or 7.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~production~~ method for production of a purification catalyst for exhaust gas according to claim 6, the method further comprising:

evaporating aqueous carboxylic acid completely to produce a carboxylic acid complex polymer; and

heating ~~[[the]]~~ said carboxylic acid complex polymer.

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

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8. (Currently Amended) The ~~production~~ method for production of a purification catalyst for exhaust gas according to claim 7, wherein a heating temperature in ~~[[the]]~~ said heating of the carboxylic acid complex polymer step is not more than 1000°C.

9. (Withdrawn) A purification catalyst apparatus for automobile exhaust gas having Pd oxide supported on Al oxide for purifying exhaust gas emitted from an automobile, wherein the Al oxide is  $\text{LnAlO}_3$  in which Ln is a rare-earth element, and wherein crystal system of the aluminum oxide is trigonal or rhombohedral.